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February 16, 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: ***FCC 00-455, ET Docket No. 00-258, RM-9920 and 9911***

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I am extremely concerned about the future of the ITFS spectrum which is under assault in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on 3G spectrum allocations that was released January 5, 2001. Instructional Television Fixed Service (*ITFS*) is an integral component of our alternative learning program plan for all Ventura County Schools. Moreover, preservation of the full ITFS band is absolutely critical if wireless broadband is to become a reality for our 137,000 students.

As you know, recent rule changes have opened the ITFS spectrum to the implementation of wireless two-way video and broadband data services, including high-speed Internet access. The educational power of ITFS has been expanded under the digital two-way rules to provide advanced learning services, interactive video, and wireless broadband Internet. As distance learning becomes more robust and interactive, ITFS offers educational institutions throughout the country an affordable high-speed on-ramp to the broadband Internet for students and adult learners in the classroom, at home and at work. This goal was recently cited as the first priority for policymakers by the bipartisan Congressional Web-Based Education Commission. In addition, fixed wireless broadband promises to bring a competitor to DSL and cable modem technologies in our county, making broadband access not only more widely available but also more affordable.

ITFS does not only benefit schools, students and adult learners, however. In addition to the broad range of community programming currently carried on the ITFS spectrum, the recent two-way order has filled a void where legislation and regulation have failed to produce affordable broadband Internet access. Working in conjunction with wireless communication companies, the ITFS spectrum is being used to bring broadband to under-served populations in rural, urban and otherwise isolated communities nationwide. ITFS licensees are

"Commitment to Quality Education for All"

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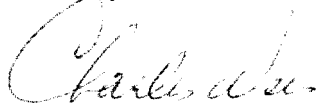
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therefore critical to the educational community as they help our county, state, nation and the Commission to bridge the Digital Divide.

If the Commission reallocates any part of the ITFS spectrum for 3G mobile device services, the capacity, usefulness, and value of ITFS would be significantly diminished. Even if only part of the spectrum is taken away, many educational institutions would lose their ITFS service altogether, while others would face new equipment costs, service disruption and cutbacks, lower quality of service and signal interference. In either scenario, the ITFS community would be incapable of supporting advanced wireless services and promoting the development of broadband services to our educational community.

If the ITFS spectrum is compromised in any way, these public benefits will be lost. The Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office needs your support in maintaining the integrity of our spectrum and in keeping this tremendous educational resource alive and strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Weis".

Charles Weis, Ph.D.
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

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